

Regional Chamber of Commerce "One Region, One Voice"

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

At the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, we are focused on uniting voices in our four-county region to garner support for major projects that impact our community. Our goal is to support our growing region by fostering a climate that allows businesses to thrive and promoting quality job growth. We believe the proposed merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks into New Charter will bring much-needed technology and innovation to our region that will benefit businesses and residents, and a commitment to low-income communities.

Recently, our organization worked very closely with area business and community leaders on two major projects that will provide new and exciting opportunities for our region. The creation of a new four-year university and medical school, UT-RGV, and securing a new launch site for Space X will bring new high-paying jobs to our community. The new institutions and supporting businesses will also require the latest broadband infrastructure and telecommunications capabilities. We are confident New Charter could supply the most innovative services to our employers.

New Charter has already agreed to invest heavily in our nation's broadband infrastructure. Specifically, it would commit at least \$2.5 billion to build out commercial network lines and put up one million new residential lines. This would be a major contribution to our nation's broadband framework. It would allow regions like ours to market to highly competitive, technologically complex companies. Coveted companies like these would produce important economic activity in the Rio Grande Valley and places like it around the country.

We understand that a community cannot thrive if some of its member are perpetually struggling. New Charter seems to understand this too. The company would commit to adopting Bright House Network's low-income broadband program in order to service consumers who are so often priced out of the market. The program would provide customers with 60 Mbps, a speed so fast that many people in one house could stream content on multiple devices at the same time. The package would be discounted so that our neighbors with limited financial means would still be able to connect to the world through technology just like everyone else, providing fundamental opportunity and equality.

We are happy to support New Charter because we think its commitment to investment would bring needed innovation to our region. We also look forward to the impact of its low-income broadband program on some of our valued residents. We hope you will consider these benefits and join us in supporting the merger.

Sincerely,

Julian Alvarez

President and CEO, Rio Grande Valley Partnership